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PRAYERS

FOR

MORNING AND EVENING:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

GENERAL PRAYERS

FOR EITHER OCCASION.

PREPARED BY

THOMAS MADGE,

LATE MINISTER OF ESSEX-STREET CHAPEL.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

London:

WHITFIELD, GREEN & SON, 178, STRAND.

1866.

138. g. 256.

TO

H. BOLINGBROKE, Esq.,

Of Norwich.

My dear Sir,

The following Prayers, some of which were heard by you and met with your approval, I have here, in compliance with your expressed wishes, committed to the press—and remain,

With affectionate regard,

Your faithful and obliged Friend,

THOMAS MADGE.

Highbury Terrace,

August 15, 1866.

PRAYERS.

First Week.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O Lord our God, who hast given us understandings to know and hearts to love thee, fulfil now thy gracious promise to draw nigh unto all them who draw nigh unto thee. The heavens are thine; the earth also is thine. We ourselves are thy children, and all our means of happiness are the gifts of thy paternal goodness. Thou carest for all, and thou blessest all. To thee, therefore, may we at all times look up for grace to help and mercy to forgive. Knowing how feeble and frail we are, we need light and strength from on high to guard and defend us. O, give us, we beseech thee,

a sacred sense of duty to shield us in the conflicts of mortality, and to save our souls from sin and death. As members of one family and disciples of one Saviour, may we unite together in worshiping thee as our Father in heaven. "Make us of one heart and one mind, filled with one sorrow for sin, one prayer for thy blessing, one hope in thy mercy, and one desire for a holier and happier life."*

On this day, which reminds us of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, may we call to our grateful remembrance the privileges which we enjoy as his disciples. May we account it a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And may all who profess and call themselves Christians, hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Direct the minds of the inquiring, confirm the faith of the wavering, relieve the doubts of

* Prayers by Travers Madge.

the anxious, and give us all a well-grounded hope in the promises of the life to come. And now, O God, bring us, we beseech thee, to the close of this day in the enjoyment of that peace which the world cannot give or take away. Hear us, for thy mercy's sake, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Gracious Lord our God, the Creator and Governor of the world, we thank thee that whilst thou hast placed our lot in this life, thou hast not left us without hope of another and a better. We adore and bless thee for the gift of thy Son Jesus Christ, by whose gospel we are fully instructed in all things necessary for our peace and happiness. We thank thee for the pardon of our sins, for the guidance of thy providence, for the consolations of thy word, and for all the means of grace with which

thou hast been pleased to entrust us. Make us watchful over ourselves, moderate in our enjoyments, and ready to impart to others of the good which we have received from thee. Bless to us the events of thy providence, and so order all things, during the remainder of our lives, that they may tend to our true and eternal interests. Whatever may be the vicissitudes which are permitted to befal us, may we consider them as coming from thy hands, and subservient to thy wise and gracious purposes. Strengthen our faith in the promises of the gospel, and give us peace and joy in believing. We pray for thy blessing on our relations and friends, and grant that we and they may be of one heart and one mind, loving each other as brethren, and uniting together in promoting, as far as in us lies, the spiritual and eternal welfare of our fellow-men. To thy holy keeping and care we would now commit ourselves. May thy blessing rest upon us, and may we rise up and lie down at peace with

thee, and under a constant sense of thy presence with us. In the name of Jesus Christ we present unto thee these our prayers and thanksgivings. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O God, the Maker of all things, whose we are, and whom we are bound to serve, we bless and praise thy holy name that thou hast watched over us during the past night, refreshed us with grateful slumbers, and opened our eyes on the light of another day. All the blessings we enjoy, or have enjoyed, come down from thee, the bountiful Giver of all good. Accept, we beseech thee, our humble and hearty thanks for the care and guidance of thy wise and merciful providence. In all the engagements and in all the vicissitudes of life, may it be our first and chief concern to render ourselves approved in thy sight, and thus to lay up for ourselves a good

foundation against the time to come. Whilst we are in the world, help us by faith to live above it. Suffer us not to pursue earthly things to the neglect of those which are heavenly and eternal; but knowing that we have here no continuing city, may we seek one to come, even that city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. Forgive us, O Father of mercies, that we have lived so much as strangers to thee, and so careless about our spiritual and everlasting interests. Give us that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation. Guide us into the way of Christian truth, and bring our hearts under its holy influence. Protect us by thy power, and visit us with thy mercy. That mercy we implore for our relations and friends, for our brethren in affliction, and for all mankind. And may we, erring and sinful as we are, look for it unto that eternal life which is thy free gift in Jesus Christ our Lord.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, our God, who hast created us, and not we ourselves, it is to thy providence and bounty that we owe the continuance of our lives, and the supply of our daily wants. In thy hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind. Great and numberless are thy mercies towards us, and may our grateful hearts ever rest on thee, and be disposed to confide in thy goodness for all that is to come. O God, make clean our hearts within us, and keep us steadfast in the paths of Christian obedience. May we know and believe to our peace and hope the blessed truths of the everlasting gospel. May they deepen our sorrow for sin, strengthen our desires for amendment, and finally lead us to the life eternal. With deep humility for all that we have done amiss, may we thankfully accept the offers of grace and mercy that have been made to us in the gospel of Jesus Christ. May we never

doubt thy power and will to save and to bless; and in all the changes of our days, may we rejoice to look up to thee as our Father and our Friend. Thou art a righteous and merciful God, and wilt order all things with unerring wisdom and in perfect goodness. With thee, therefore, we would leave all our concerns, and pray only to be so guided and supported through the various trials and troubles of this life, that we may finally reach that world where thou art all in all. Hear our prayers for those who are in trouble and sorrow. Comfort the mourner, strengthen the weak, and relieve the oppressed. Committing ourselves for this night to thy protecting care, we ascribe unto thee, through Jesus Christ, praise and thanksgiving for ever.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O God, we adore and worship thee as our Father in heaven, and we desire, with

grateful hearts, to acknowledge the care of thy providence and the provisions of thy mercy. To thee we owe all our temporal as well as spiritual blessings, the comforts and conveniences of this life, and the hopes and prospects of another. We thank thee for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, for his wonderful works, for his precious promises, for his holy and spotless example, and for all the labours and sufferings which he endured to bless and to save mankind. Impress upon us, O God, a deep sense of our dependence upon thee for all things, and dispose us to manifest our gratitude and love to thee, not only by the language of our lips, but by the conduct of our lives. May we endeavour to follow in the steps of our glorified Master, and to practise those lessons of truth and justice, of piety and benevolence, which he has left us for our guidance and help. Mercifully forgive us whereinsoever we have trespassed against thee, and grant that no event, prosperous

or adverse, may be able to turn away our hearts from thee and the things pertaining to the kingdom of heaven. We pray not for ourselves alone, but for all who are in suffering and sorrow, for the weak that they may be strengthened, and for the erring that they may be reclaimed. May thy grace be given to each of us according to our need; and grant, heavenly Father, that when the days of our earthly pilgrimage are brought to an end, thy unfailing mercy may vouchafe us an entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, at the close of another day we would lift up our hearts to thee in gratitude and love. We humbly thank thee for life and health, for the various enjoyments of our nature, for the manifold privileges of our lot, for the tender

ties which bind us to each other, for the heavenly mission of thy Son Jesus Christ, and for the purifying, cheering and comforting truths of his gospel. Wherever we are and whatever we do, in all our difficulties and in all our trials, may the thought of thy presence be ever with us to strengthen and support us. Through all our days may it go with us, chastening our joys, comforting us in our sorrows, sanctifying all labours and all events, and imparting a peace which cometh from thee alone. Gracious and heavenly Father, may no dark cloud hide from our view thy fatherly goodness, and may no present happiness make us forgetful of thee, the source and fountain of all good. May our faith be strengthened and confirmed. May the path of duty be made plain to us, and may the prospect of thy approval cheer and animate us in every good word and work. O God! forgive us, in thine infinite mercy, the sins of the past. Strengthen our good purposes for the future. Prepare us for

the changes that are before us. Prepare us for joy and for sorrow, for health and for sickness, for life and for death. We pray for the household into which thou hast gathered us, and the kindred and friends thou hast raised up around us. We pray for thy favour to the community in which we live, and for thy blessing upon all men. Hear us in this our prayer, which we offer up through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, without whose support we cannot subsist, and without whose favour we cannot be happy, may we ever walk before thee as thy humble and obedient children. We thank thee for thy protecting care over us during the past night. We bless thee for our renewed health and strength, and for the various comforts with which we are now

surrounded. Especially would we thank thee for the revelation of thy will in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for all that he has done and suffered to bring our souls into a state of peace and reconciliation with thee. And though we have too often wandered from thee and the way of thy commandments, we beseech thee to have mercy upon us, and help us to renounce whatsoever may have been displeasing in thy sight, and with our whole hearts to return and cleave unto thee. Under the duties that lie before us and the trials that may await us, we would commit ourselves to the guidance of thy wisdom and the care of thy goodness. Enable us to see thy hand in every dispensation,—in prosperity and adversity, in health and in sickness, in joy and in sorrow, and to bow at all times with meekness and submission to thy holy and sovereign will. Send down thy blessing upon all who are united to us by the ties of nature and affection, and give us grace so to live, that we may end

our days in peace, and finally become partakers of the happiness that endureth for ever. These our supplications we offer up in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, and to thee be given honour and glory for ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O Lord our God, who sendest forth thy spirit and we are created, who takest away our breath and we die and return to the dust, we adore and bless thee for the faith which we cherish, that this corruption shall put on incorruption, and this mortal shall put on immortality. May it prove our shield and defence in the hour of danger, our refuge and consolation in the time of affliction. May we learn to look upon this world in connection with another and a better, with the peace and the light and the joy to be hereafter revealed. Mercifully pardon our imperfections and sins;

and, cheered by the prospect that is set before us, may we walk steadily on in obedience to thy will, assured that thou wilt bring us safely to the end, and finally crown us with everlasting happiness. Hear us, heavenly Father, in this our prayer. May we put our trust in the wisdom and care of thy benignant providence. In trouble and sorrow may we bow in resignation to thy holy will; and may we feel at all times a calm, supporting, cheerful confidence in thee, the God of our salvation. Take us, we beseech thee, under thy most mighty and merciful protection. Watch over us in the defenceless hours of the night, and give us quiet and refreshing sleep. And when this succession of days and nights shall be no more, receive us to thyself in glory everlasting. We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, our Creator, Preserver, and constant Benefactor, we would begin this day with the acknowledgment of thy goodness, and of our entire dependence upon thy providence. May we take thy word to be a light to our feet and a lamp to our path. And as they who sin against thee, sin against their own souls, may we make it our aim and endeavour both to know and to do thy will. Thankful for all our temporal and spiritual mercies, we humbly implore of thee the continuance of thy favour, and again commend ourselves to the blessing of thy kindness and care. Never may we forget the source from which we sprung, or be unmindful of the high and holy vocation wherewith we are called; but, remembering that we are born for eternity, may we fix our hearts upon the possession of that inheritance which is undefiled and that fadeth not away. May we be watchful

over our own spirits, and strive to keep them free from evil thoughts, and filled with virtuous affections. Help us day by day and week by week to walk before thee in faith and patience and hope. In the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, for whom, O God, we would ever bless thee, and in whom we desire to be found, living and dying, we would offer up our prayer for the forgiveness of our sins. Direct our steps in peace and safety. Leave us not, neither forsake us, O God of our salvation; be our Guide even unto death, and thine be the praise for ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O God, the Author of our being and the Father of our spirits, all that we have is thine, and through thy guardian care we have been brought to the present hour. With renewed and holy thankfulness we now come before thee to adore and bless

thee for the mercy and loving-kindness which have been continued to us from day to day, for the friends whom thou hast given to cheer us in this house of our pilgrimage, and for the help vouchsafed to us in the time of our need. As the Giver of our blessings, and the Preserver of our lives, may we seek to render at all times a pure and acceptable offering. In all the social and domestic relations of life, may the gentle and loving temper of our heavenly Master rule in our hearts. May the ties of family and kindred be blessed and sanctified by the spirit of the gospel. In our intercourse with the world, may we be upright in our dealings, truthful in our words, and kind and merciful in all our actions. Inspire us with a cheerful trust in thy providence, and give us the spirit to labour on, in faith and prayer, for the true, the right and the good. We implore of thee, O God, the forgiveness of our errors and transgressions. We have many sins to lament before thee. Give

us, we beseech thee, a deeper sense of our unworthiness, and grant us thy pardoning mercy, through him who loved us and gave himself for us. Watch over us this night. Refresh us with seasonable and comfortable rest. And may every day which thou shalt be pleased to add to our lives on earth be so spent and improved, as to increase our fitness for the society of the blessed in heaven. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we pray unto thee as our Father in heaven. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O God, our almighty and merciful Father, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, we beseech thee to look down with an eye of favour upon us thy servants who are now assembled before thee. We thank thee for thy gracious protection during the past night, and we adore that

goodness which has hitherto preserved our lives, supplied our wants, and caused us to lie down and rise up again in peace and safety. Give us, we beseech thee, the spirit of wisdom and of love and of a sound mind. Deliver us from every error by which we are in danger of being deceived. May we be faithful and diligent in the work which thou hast given us to do, and be mindful, amidst all our earthly occupations, of another and a better world. May we put away from us all hatred and strife, and as far as in us lies may we live peaceably with all men. Day after day, we remain the monuments of thy mercy, and we pray that the remembrance of thy goodness may lead us to repentance, and make us more careful to walk according to thy will. Pardon, O God, our sins and transgressions, and grant us such things as thou knowest to be most needful for us. We are thy creatures, the children of thy love, and the objects of thy bounty. Help us to serve each other in love; bearing

one another's burthens, assisting one another's temporal and spiritual welfare, exercising mutual sympathy and mutual forbearance, and living together as heirs of immortality. May love reign in our hearts, and peace in our dwellings, and mayest thou, the God of love and peace, be ever with us. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Holy and merciful God, of whom and through whom and to whom are all things, we come before thee this evening, gratefully to acknowledge thy continued goodness to us, and to present our supplications at the throne of thy grace. Health and strength and food and raiment, all are the gifts of thy providence. The blessed truths, the purifying precepts, and the glorious hopes of the gospel, these too proceed from thy fatherly love, and for these we would praise and magnify thy holy name.

As thou hast sent Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and Guide, may we meditate on the lessons which he has given us and the example which he has left us. Mercifully strengthen our humble endeavours to follow in his steps and to imbibe his spirit. We feel how unworthy we are of the favours which thou hast conferred upon us. It is because thy mercies fail not that we have been spared to this hour, that we have been blessed with the comforts with which we are now surrounded, and the precious privileges which we are still permitted to enjoy. Clouds and darkness are sometimes round about thee, and to us thy judgments are often inscrutable and mysterious; but in the midst of our difficulties and perplexities enough is revealed to convince us that thy statutes are right, rejoicing the heart, and that all true and lasting happiness is to be found only in the way of thy commandments. Forgive, we pray thee, our failings and faults, and bring us to a sincere and lasting repent-

ance for all our offences. And now, O Father, we commit ourselves into thy hands. Protect us while we sleep. Guard from evil the habitations in which we dwell; and may the words of our mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we bless and praise thy holy name for every temporal and spiritual blessing which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us. May we submit all our actions to thy law, and all our concerns to thy disposal. While familiar with the forms of godliness, may we, none of us, be strangers to its power. Enlighten our darkness, help our infirmities, and pardon our transgressions. Lead our feeble and wavering hearts to seek

their rest in thee; and may we remember that we have that within, which, when all things else shall have vanished away, may live and abide with us for ever. May we discern the greatness of thy mercy in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Teach us to value the gracious message which he brought from heaven to earth. May our faith in him be not in word only, but in deed and in truth. May his spirit be our spirit, the regulator of our desires and the guide of our actions, leading us to avoid what is evil, and to cleave to that which is good. Continue to bless us with thy favour. May the means of grace which have been given us create within us a new heart, and form within us a right spirit. Thus may we go from grace to grace and from strength to strength, till we stand for ever in thy presence. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we ascribe unto thee, O God, blessing and praise for ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O Lord our God, by whom all things were created, and are now supported and governed, we adore the power, wisdom and goodness which are displayed in all thy works. We bless thee for every instance of thy loving-kindness which we have experienced during our past lives, and for the watchful care of thy good providence by which we have been preserved to the present hour. Above all, we praise thee for the provision which thou hast made for our souls, and that when the fulness of time was come, thou didst send thy Son Jesus Christ into the world to publish the glad tidings of pardon and eternal life, and to become by his own resurrection from the dead the first fruits of them that sleep. But while we thus recognize these proofs of thy paternal love, how much reason have we to lament our past ingratitude, and the many unworthy returns we have made for thy great and unmerited goodness! O Father, we have

sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are not worthy to be called thy children. But thou art all-merciful, ever ready to forgive, and hast declared thyself not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and live. Cast us not off from thy presence, and take not thy holy spirit from us, but in the multitude of thy tender mercies remember thou us. In our intercourse with one another, may we be governed by the pure and generous spirit of the religion we profess, and may we find our standard and guide in the life of him whose meat and drink it was to do the will of his Father in heaven. Relying on thy guardian care, may we enter on the hours of another night. Refresh us, we beseech thee, with undisturbed rest, and grant that we may arise in the morning, ready and prepared for the duties of the coming day. Hear us in this our prayer, and do more and better for us than we can ask or think, and thine be the praise and the glory for ever. Amen.

Second Week.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Most holy and merciful God, who hast brought us in safety and peace to the morning of this day, give us grace so to observe it that it may be the beginning of a happy week to each of us. As members of a Christian family, we would commend ourselves and those we love to thy continued protection and blessing. Be with us in our going out and our coming in, at all times and in all places. May we worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. May we draw nigh to thee with our hearts as well as with our lips, and may the homage which we present unto thee here below help to prepare us for the nobler services of thy temple above. We thank thee, O God, for all those blessings, temporal and spiritual, which thou hast mercifully provided for us, and espe-

cially for those higher blessings which we are this day invited to acknowledge and improve. We thank thee for the gospel of Jesus Christ, for the labours of love which he performed, and for the immortal hopes which he has awakened in our hearts. May we give earnest heed to the gracious words which fell from his lips, and to the holy example which he has left behind him. May we endeavour to walk in his steps and to imbibe his spirit. May we rise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, and may we find by happy experience that the ways of wisdom are the ways of pleasantness, and all her paths the paths of peace. Grant, O God, that when the days of our earthly abode are coming to an end, we may be ready and prepared for that happiness which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, and which it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive. Mercifully pardon our sins, and accept our services, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS and heavenly Father, through thy goodness we have been brought to the close of another day, and we pray for thy blessing upon us this night, in giving us the rest and refreshment of sleep. By thy power we were created, and by thy providence we are preserved. Thou art good unto all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. May we endeavour to imitate that love by which we and all creatures subsist, and may we study to be the children of our Father in heaven by being kindly affectioned one to another, and to all with whom we are connected in life. May we, none of us, neglect the salvation that is offered us, nor receive the grace of God in vain. May we set before us the example of Christ our Saviour, and endeavour to transfer into our own hearts and lives the meekness and patience, the forgiveness of injuries, and the unfailing trust, that were displayed

by him. And now, O Father, we beseech thee to keep us all in the love and fear of thy holy name. Too often have we erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have too often been forgetful of thee and of the things that belong to our everlasting peace. In the enjoyment of our blessings we have too seldom thought of the fountain whence they flow. Pardon, we beseech thee, our errors and transgressions, accept our penitence and prayer, and renew us in the spirit of our minds. To thy protecting care we again commend ourselves, beseeching thee to grant that all who are dear to us may rest this night in peace and safety. Hear us, O God, for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

Gracious Lord our God, through thy goodness we have arrived at the beginning

of another day, and we pray that we may be enabled to fulfil the duties which we owe to thee and to each other. We thank thee for our awakened powers, for our social affections, and for our religious capacities. We adore and praise thee for the gift of thy Son Jesus Christ, for the life which he lived and the death which he died to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify to himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. May we treasure up his word in our hearts, and make it the guide of our lives. Like him, may we seek to do thy will, and to glorify thy name. Knowing that what thou appointest is wisest and best, may we gladly confide in thy continued care, and cherish a constant filial trust in the wisdom and benignity of all thy dispensations. Thy purposes are all kind and merciful. Whatever darkness to our narrow and partial view may obscure thy designs and render thy ways unsearchable and mysterious, suffer us not to distrust thy wisdom or to ques-

tion thy loving-kindness. Deliver us from the dominion of evil, and bring us to the knowledge of thy truth. Under a profound conviction of our unworthiness, we lament our imperfections and sins. Our only hope is in thy mercy. To that mercy we are directed to look by thy Son Jesus Christ, and to that mercy may we fly for forgiveness and help. Support and comfort us under the trials and troubles of life, and lead us by thy Spirit into the way of life everlasting. May thy fatherly blessing rest upon us, and upon all who are in sickness, sorrow, or any other adversity; and to thee be given the glory and the praise for ever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

O God, we bow before thee as the Creator of all things and the Giver of all good. Blessed be thy holy name for bringing us together this evening in health and peace

and safety. Wherever we are, and in whatever occupations we may be engaged, may we never forget thee, the Lord our Maker, or be unmindful of the mercies which we are continually receiving at thy hands. May we learn to revere thy power, to adore thy wisdom, and to rejoice in thy goodness. May a sense of thy universal presence be deeply impressed upon our minds, animate us in all the duties, and support and comfort us in all the events and vicissitudes of life. May it lead us to cultivate and to cherish all pure, benevolent and holy affections, love to thee our God, and kindness and goodwill to our fellow-men. Pardon, gracious Father, the failings and transgressions of our past lives. Adored be thy forgiving love in Christ Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and through whom every humble, contrite, penitent spirit may have access to the throne of grace, and find the relief and comfort which he seeks. Hear our prayers for all who are suffering under

the afflictive dispensations of thy providence. Instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, be a Father to the fatherless, and a refuge for the oppressed. Committing ourselves, and all for whom we are concerned, to thy almighty protection and care, we ascribe unto thee, through Jesus Christ, blessing and praise for ever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O THOU who art in all and over all, we would begin this day by offering unto thee our sincere and heartfelt acknowledgments for thy providential care over us during the past night. We gratefully own thy goodness, which is ever around and within us. Though thou art in heaven and we on earth, thine ear is ever open to the prayers of thy servants. To thee, therefore, do we lift up our eyes, earnestly desiring to learn thy will, to seek thy face, and to obtain thy favour. Thou art our

Creator, the Rock of our defence, and the God of our salvation. Thou hast opened to us the gates of mercy, and hast taught us, by Jesus Christ, the way of thy peace. We adore and praise thee, O God, for the assurance which he has given us of thy readiness to receive back to thy favour and blessing every contrite and penitent spirit, who is desirous of forsaking his sins, and returning unto thee in the way thou hast directed. O may we give thee the homage of our hearts, learn to walk in thy way, and to submit every faculty and every thought to thy holy and righteous will. As thou art our Father, may we conduct ourselves as thy children. May thy goodness and mercy be ever before us. Prepare us for the duties and the trials of life. Guide us by thy wisdom, and uphold and strengthen us by thy power. Regard with thy favour all who are near and dear to us, all who are united to us by the ties of nature and friendship. Bless us and keep us. Lift up upon us the light of thy

countenance, and give us peace now and evermore. These our supplications we present unto thee in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O God, our heavenly Father, we would approach the throne of thy grace to offer unto thee our thankful praises for all the blessings which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us. We thank thee for the gift of life, for all our powers both of body and of mind, for our health, for our friends, for food and raiment, and for the many sources of enjoyment that have been placed within our reach. Above all, we adore thee for thy mercy and compassion in sending thy Son Jesus Christ into the world, to impart to us the knowledge of our duty, to redeem us from sin and death, and to open before us the blessed prospect of everlasting life. But when we consider

how ill we have requited thy goodness, and how little we have merited thy mercies, we lament, with penitent hearts, the many instances of our ingratitude, and beseech thee to have mercy upon us. Help us, O God, to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. May we be sober and temperate in our enjoyments, just and upright in our dealings, full of kindness and compassion to the needy and afflicted, and ready to do good unto all men as we have opportunity. May a sense of our own infirmities inspire us with tenderness to the infirmities of others. Everywhere may brotherly kindness take the place of bitterness and wrath. Enlighten those who are in error; bring home the wandering to thy fold; cause thy peace to come upon the sorrowful, and subdue every opposing will to thine. And now, O Father, we humbly beg thy blessing upon us this night; and as we desire to walk in a constant sense of thy all-seeing providence, so may the same good providence

watch over us, and give us the rest we need. These things, with whatever else thou seest to be necessary for us, we humbly implore of thee, for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O God, the Father of mercies and the Bestower of every blessing, we beseech thee to look with favour upon us thy children, while, as a Christian household, we present unto thee our morning tribute of thanksgiving and prayer. We have largely experienced thy bounty and care, and we desire with grateful hearts to bless that gracious Providence which has guarded us from danger, watched over our interests, and supplied us with the means of support and comfort. Accept, O God, the offering of our thankful praise for all the temporal and spiritual mercies which we have enjoyed, and grant that the re-

membrance of thy goodness may dwell continually in our hearts. Teach us above all other possessions to prize thy favour. Keep us from the snares of a selfish and worldly mind. Fill our souls with the spirit of Christ. May we keep before our eyes his pure and holy example, and endeavour to walk in his steps. Write thy law in our hearts, and dispose us to fulfil it with all our might. May we never fix our chief happiness on the things of time and sense, but uncorrupted by its cares and its pleasures, may we indulge the blessed hope of everlasting life. We pray, O God, for the forgiveness of our sins. In many things we have all offended. In many things we have done that which is evil in thy sight. We feel how much we stand in need of thy pardoning mercy. O may that mercy be extended to us, and may thy blessing be with us both now and for ever. Defend us in the hour of danger. Succour us in all our sorrows and adversities. Lead us through every trial, and,

when the troubles of this life shall be over, conduct us at length in peace and safety to the haven of everlasting rest. And to thee, the Father of all, be rendered, through Jesus Christ, praise and thanksgiving for ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

AUTHOR of our being and the Preserver of our lives, at the close of another day we bow before thee with grateful and obedient hearts for all thy mercies. Thine is the world in which we live, the air we breathe, the sun which gives us light by day, and the moon and stars which give us light by night. To thee we are indebted for the food that nourishes us, the raiment that clothes us, and the habitations that shelter us. Thine arm, though unseen, upholds us; thy hand, though invisible, guides us. In every part of our duty may it be our ruling aim to fashion

our conduct by the spirit of Christ. May we honour thee by our patience under every trial, by our meekness under every provocation, and by our continued perseverance in well-doing. And wherever we have departed from the spirit of Christ, or have in any way violated the law of Christian love, we humbly implore thy gracious forgiveness. As sojourners on earth, we pray, O God, for those supplies of temporal good which our necessities may call for. If it be thy holy will, defend us from the many dangers to which we are exposed, and grant that as our day is, so may our strength be. May the gospel of Christ be to us an ever-present source of peace and happiness. May it lighten every trial, and cheer us under every disappointment. May there be no place or time when its hopes and consolations shall not be felt; and living under its blessed influence, may our hearts be filled with thankfulness and our lips with praise. We ask for every blessing through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O God our heavenly Father, who hast protected us through the hours of the past night, refreshed us with sleep, and brought us together this morning in health and strength, we come into thy presence to thank thee for thy goodness, and to bow before thee with reverence and godly fear. The day and the night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, all are tokens of thy unfailing providence. When we look up to the heavens, thou art there—to the depths of the earth, and thou art there. Thy presence fills all space and thou dwellest in every pure and upright mind that seeks to find in thee its refuge and its strength. Amidst all the wonders of thy hand, a still small voice speaketh to us in our hearts, and encourages us to draw near to thee, as our heavenly Father, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray. Like our great Master Jesus Christ, may we go forth in the power of thy spirit, resolved under all circumstances to conduct

ourselves as thy children. May we love thee with all our hearts, and do unto others as we would wish them to do to us. Impress upon our minds the claims which our fellow-men have to our sympathy and help, and grant that we may be ever ready to minister to the wants and sufferings of those who are in distress. Go with us, O thou Preserver of our lives, wherever we go this day. Let it not pass away from us, as too many have done, in forgetfulness of thee and our eternal interests. But may every duty be made sacred to our minds, as the ordering of thy will, and every blessing be received as the gift of thy love. Depending as we do on thy mercy, forgive us, O God, that we have not been more truly sensible of it, and lead us for the future to cherish a spirit of deeper thankfulness and holier trust. Hear us, we beseech thee, in this our prayer, and grant that under the shelter of thy care we may abide in peace. And to thee be given, through Jesus Christ, honour and glory for ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, by whose power we were created, and by whose providence we are sustained, we desire to bless thy holy name for all the mercies which are so bountifully provided for us. We thank thee for our various comforts and enjoyments, for the light which shines around us, for the gift of thy written word, and for the means of grace which have been imparted to us. We confess, at the same time, that we have done that which we ought not to have done, and left undone that which we ought to have done, and our only hope is in thy mercy. Pardon, O Lord, the sins which we have committed against thee. Forgive whatever evil thoughts have been harboured in our minds, and may we take comfort from the assurance that thou art ever ready to have mercy upon all who, with true and hearty repentance, turn unto thee and strive to live in conformity to thy law.

Strengthen our faith in the promises of the gospel. Make us humble and lowly, benevolent and kind. And following the example of Christ our Saviour, who went about doing good, and remembering how short is the time of our continuance here on earth, may we use all diligence to make our calling and election sure. Grant us, we beseech thee, thy gracious protection during the darkness and silence of the ensuing night. Thou sustainest our lives, though we see thee not. Thou art our support in trouble, our consolation in the time of sickness, and our refuge in the hour of death. May no distressing doubts or fears disturb the quiet of our minds, and may we lie down to rest this night, thankful for all thy goodness to us, and committing ourselves, with holy confidence, into the keeping of thy merciful providence. We ask these blessings as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, we adore the power, wisdom and goodness which are displayed in all thy works. We thank thee that we now appear before thee in the continued possession of mental and bodily health. We thank thee for the repose which has renewed our powers, and for the means of subsistence and comfort with which thou art pleased to favour us. May we make thy approval the chief object of our desires and the great end of our actions. And may we cherish the feelings which ought to be found in the children of an all-wise and merciful Father and the disciples of a holy and compassionate Saviour. Grant, O God, that thy never-failing goodness may draw us nearer and nearer to thyself, and produce in us a more ready submission to thy will, and a more abiding reliance on thy mercy. May we faithfully fulfil the duties of the several relations which we sustain in life, and in

all our actions may we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before thee. We feel how unworthy we are of the blessings which thou hast conferred upon us. It is because thy mercies fail not, that we have been spared to this hour, that we have been blessed with the comforts with which we are now surrounded, and with the precious privileges which we are still permitted to enjoy. Pardon whatsoever thou hast seen to be wrong in our past temper and conduct, and lead us to a sincere and lasting repentance for all our offences. To thy gracious care we again commend ourselves, our relations and friends; and bring us all, in the multitude of thy mercies, through this world of many trials, to that place of rest and peace which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. And to thee be given, through Jesus Christ, blessing and praise for ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

EVER-BLESSED God, look down, we beseech thee, with an eye of mercy upon us thy servants who now bend the suppliant knee in thy presence, and would offer unto thee our evening tribute of prayer and praise. Hear us in heaven thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest forgive and bless us. May we esteem it among our highest privileges that we are permitted to hold communion with thee our Maker, to call upon thee as our Father in heaven, and to put our trust in that goodness which is over all and which endureth for ever. We know not what a day may bring forth, but we rejoice to believe that thou, O Lord, knowest all things. Feed us with food convenient for us. Grant us, if it please thee, health of body and peace of mind. Bestow upon us what thou knowest to be best for us, and enable us faithfully to perform the duties of those stations in which thy providence hath

placed us. Insufficient for our own safety and welfare, and knowing that all our sufficiency is of God, we beseech thee to keep us from all real evil, and to bestow upon us every needful good. And with our supplication for those blessings which we desire, we offer up our tribute of thanksgiving for those which we possess, for that goodness and mercy which have followed us all our days, for that goodness which thou hast spread all around us, and for those mercies which are new every morning and repeated every evening. Aid with thy Spirit our sincere endeavours to act in accordance with thy will, and give us the firmness to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. Take us under thy protection this night; and safe under the shadow of thy wings, we commit ourselves to thee in confidence and peace. Hear us for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O THOU who hearest prayer, in the name and as the disciples of thy Son Jesus Christ, we would again present ourselves before thee, and in the spirit of filial trust would acknowledge thee to be the Maker and the Lord of all. We thank thee for thy kind and protecting care of us during the defenceless hours of sleep. We thank thee for the food that nourishes our bodies, and the friendships which cheer our hearts. Dispose us to walk more humbly and devoutly before thee, and grant that we may receive thy word in the spirit of meekness, and adorn our Christian profession by the integrity of our lives. Confiding in the assurance that thou art ever gracious and merciful, pardon, we beseech thee, our past errors and transgressions. Watch over us in every danger, and give us the strength we need. Enable us to overcome the sins of thought, of temper, and of life, which most easily beset us; and if through

the weakness of our nature we have acted in disobedience to thy commands, deal not with us according to our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquity. Grant, O God, that this and all our days may be spent in thy faith, fear and love; and may we bear in hope and trust the various allotments of thy providence. May we be faithful and true, affectionate and kind, to one another, doing as we would be done by, forgiving as we hope to be forgiven, and so fulfilling the law of love. Bless, we pray thee, all efforts that are made to spread the light of Christian truth throughout the world, and may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. These our supplications we present unto thee in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Gracious Lord our God, who hast brought us in safety to the close of another

day, we would raise our thoughts to thee, the Giver of all good, and the Fountain of all our hopes. Through every period of our existence, thou hast been ever with us to preserve and bless us. Accept, we beseech thee, our humble and hearty thanks for all thy mercies, and be pleased to take us and all we love under the care and protection of thy good providence through the hours of rest and every remaining day of our lives. May we trace thy hand in all the dispensations of thy wisdom, in prosperity and adversity, in health and in sickness, and learn in all things to bow to thy holy will. Father of mercies, who hast not only breathed into us the breath of a perishable life, but hast raised us to the hope of life everlasting, grant that this hope may be a strong and lasting principle in our souls; that it may enable us to maintain the dignity of our relation to thee, and our joint inheritance with Jesus Christ; that it may guide us in life, and support and comfort us in the

hour of death. In devotedness to thee and duty, in tender sympathy with the wants and sufferings of our fellow-creatures, and in calmness, sobriety and elevation of spirit, may we walk in the footsteps of our holy and benevolent Master on earth, so that when our day of trial and discipline is over, we may be with him and with the spirits of the just made perfect in heaven. And now, O Father, into thy hands we commend our spirits, in the assurance that thou wilt do more and better for us than we are worthy to receive, and in humble hope of thy mercy unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

GENERAL PRAYERS,

FOR MORNING OR EVENING.

I.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, the Creator and Ruler of the world, the heavens declare thy glory and the earth is full of thy goodness. Thou causest the sun to shine by day, and the moon to give her light by night. Thou causest grass to grow for cattle, and herb for the service of man. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, and renewest the face of the earth. Thou givest rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, and scatterest abroad the dew of thy blessing. Thou art about our bed and our path, and thou alone makest us to dwell in safety. Thy government is the government of

perfect goodness and unerring wisdom. By means which we are unable to comprehend, thou bringest good out of evil, and light out of darkness. May we, therefore, receive with thankful and contented minds the appointments of thy providence, and endeavour, as far as we are able, to resolve our wills into thine. And as to thee, O Father, we are indebted for all the blessings and comforts of this life, so may we devoutly thank thee that to these thy undeserved mercies thou hast added others of unspeakable value and everlasting duration. In compassion to our ignorance and in mercy to our infirmities, thou didst send thy Son Jesus Christ into the world to open before us the gates of heaven and immortality, and to raise our minds from the contemplation of this frail and perishable state of things, to that bright and eternal world, where peace and virtue and happiness dwell together for ever. If in recollecting the bounties of thy providence and the consolations of thy word, our

minds have remained untouched by solemn thought and unmoved by deep and heart-felt thankfulness, we beseech thee, O God, to give us penitent and contrite hearts, and to grant us thy gracious forgiveness. And in our last moments may we peacefully repose in the conviction that our souls are in thy hands, and that all thy dealings with us are wise and kind and merciful and just. We worship and bow down before thee as the disciples of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

II.

O THOU who fillest the universe with thy presence, who searchest the heart, and art acquainted with all our ways, with profound humility we bow before thee, and devoutly implore thy fatherly compassion and forgiveness. Thou knowest our frame, and thou rememberest that we are dust. Amidst all thy goodness, suffer us

not to forget thee, our great Benefactor, to neglect the duties which we owe to our fellow-men, and the important interests of our own everlasting state. May our hearts be the seat of good and holy thoughts, of pure, peaceful and kind affections. Withdraw our minds from an inordinate love of this transitory world, and grant that, living in temperance, righteousness and godliness, we may pass our time in the cheerful expectation of another and a better. O God, suffer us not to go from day to day, and from week to week, and yet be unmindful of the hand that upholds and the bounty that provides for us. Grant that for the time to come we may be more grateful for thy fatherly goodness, more intent upon improving the blessings we enjoy, more beneficent to our fellow-creatures, and more diligent in working out our own salvation. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of love and of all consolation, who hast regarded us, all offending as we are,

with fatherly compassion and mercy. Pardon, we beseech thee, our forgetful and wavering minds, and help us to amend whatsoever in us has been contrary to thy holy will; and grant that, taught by the pure and unspotted life and example of Jesus Christ, we may henceforth serve thee with filial reverence and godly fear; and when our days on earth are drawing to an end, may we depart in peace, and be received to thy everlasting mercy, through him who is the resurrection and the life. And to thee be ascribed the praise and the glory for ever. Amen.

III.

O God, the Creator of all worlds and all beings, who hast endowed us with a higher life than what belongs to the body, and hast placed before us a better world than that which we now inhabit, may our hearts be touched with a grateful sense of

all thy loving kindness, and be led to seek in thee, in the pursuit of thy favour, and in the observance of thy commandments, the fountain of their best and purest happiness. Keep us from degrading the nature thou hast given us. Keep us from the abuse of our privileges and the perversion of our powers, and inspire us with an earnest desire to fulfil the true ends of our existence, and to accomplish the purposes of thy will concerning us. We acknowledge the depth both of the wisdom and goodness of God in the dispensations of that gospel which is the best criterion of human duty and the firmest foundation of human hope. May the spirit of Christ reign within us, elevating our thoughts, purifying our desires, calling into action every generous affection of our nature, and qualifying us for every good word and work. May we remember with devout thankfulness the preservation and protection hitherto vouchsafed to us, and may we look forward, in faith and hope,

to the possession of those privileges and the enjoyment of those blessings which are reserved in heaven for thy faithful and obedient servants. Spare to us the friends thou hast given us. Mercy and peace be with them. Guide us all through the perils of life. Take us under thy protecting care; and grant that when our days are numbered, that day may dawn upon us whose sun shall never set, and of whose glory there shall be no end. Hear us for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IV.

O THOU who inhabitest eternity, and whose ear is always open to the prayer of thy servants, in all our ways may we acknowledge thee, and do thou direct our path. Mindful of what we are and of what we ought to be, recollecting that as from thee we came, so to thee we must

return, may we labour to adorn our minds with wisdom, to fill our hearts with kind and good affections, and to make truth and duty the guiding principles of our thoughts and actions. Enlighten in us what is dark, raise and purify what is low, support and strengthen in us what is feeble and weak. Save us from vanity, folly and vice. Save us from every false and dangerous pursuit, and feed us with knowledge and virtue, with piety, peace and happiness. As our Creator we would revere thee. As our Father we would love thee. And assured as we are that no place can remove us from thy presence, and no clouds of darkness veil us from thy view, may we meet all the events of life with the submission, the confidence and the hope, becoming our character and condition as thy children and the disciples of Jesus Christ. Bless, we beseech thee, all our virtuous labours and virtuous efforts. Continue to us the care of thy protecting providence, and enable us to remember

that as our lives are passed in thy constant presence, so death resigns us to thy merciful disposal. To thee, O God, may we always turn in every time of trouble, as our truest and best Friend, and to thee be given, through Jesus Christ, blessing and praise for ever. Amen.

V.

O Lord our God, great and marvellous are thy works; in wisdom and in goodness hast thou made them all. We, the creatures of thy hand, desire to praise thee for the glorious manifestations of thyself in the heavens above and in the earth beneath. We praise thee for the sun which giveth us our days and measureth out the length of our years. We praise thee for the moon which walketh in her brightness, and the stars which faint not in their watches. We praise thee for the wonderful and beautiful revolutions of the sea-

sons, for the early and the latter rain, for seed-time and harvest, for the gifts of every land and the blessings of every year. Teach us to walk before thee with reverent and adoring steps. May we commune with our own hearts, and meditate upon the things which belong to our everlasting peace. May we reflect upon the duties to which we are called, and the destination to which we are appointed. And may our thoughts of thee, and of thy will concerning us, cheer and strengthen our spirits, purify and comfort our hearts. Give us, we pray, the spirit of faith, of hope and of charity, without which all human worship is vain; bless to our use the means of redemption and immortality; and grant that when our course is run and our days are ended, we may have an entrance into that kingdom of happiness and glory which endureth for ever. And unto thee, who art our support in life and our hope in death, be ascribed all praise and thanksgiving now and for ever. Amen.

VI.

O God, who art love, and who dwellest in love, we adore thee for all the displays of thy majesty and might, and the many and bright revelations afforded us that thy nature is light and thy name love. We thank thee for the powers of our minds and the affections of our hearts. All that we are and have and hope for cometh from above. Thou givest unto all liberally and upbraidest not. Lead us more constantly to yield up our wills to thine, to seek and find in thy service our only perfect freedom, and to walk in the way of the holy and glorified Jesus. We pray that for all the blessings of our mortal lot we may evince our devout thankfulness by partaking of them temperately and using them uprightly, by freely giving as we have freely received, by practising the charities which endear man to man, and by earnest endeavours to promote, as far as we are able, the cause of truth, virtue and righte-

ousness. May we remember how short our time is, how fast our earthly pleasures are coming to an end, how the glory of man is as the flower of the grass, and how soon the fashion of this world passeth away. Strengthen us, we beseech thee, for the duties that lie before us, and grant that, having walked before thee with a pure heart, and done that which is just and right in thy sight, we may be ready to obey thy summons, be gathered to our fathers in peace, and so quit this world and the things of this world in the tranquil hope of another and a better. We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

VII.

O Lord our God, who art just and righteous in all thy ways, to thee in the hour of prosperity and ease, when the candle of the Lord shines in our taberna-

cles and our cup overflows with blessings, we would offer up the song of thanksgiving and the incense of praise. And in seasons of sorrow and care, when our souls are cast down and our spirits are disquieted within us, to thee shall the voice of our supplication be addressed. May thy providence guide us through all the changes and chances of the world, and grant that our souls may be kept in peace, and be humbly resigned to thy will. Fix our thoughts and hopes on heaven and heavenly things. Teach us to walk always as in thy presence. Support us in our necessities, strengthen us in our temptations, and comfort us in our sorrows. Let thy Spirit dwell with us and direct us. Give us clear understandings and upright minds, just conceptions of thee and thy laws, and kind and charitable dispositions towards our fellow-men. O thou who pitiest them that fear thee, enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified; but

pardon our offences, and purify our souls with the waters of repentance. In all tribulation and anguish of spirit, in prosperity and adversity, in the hour of death and in the day of judgment, we beseech thee to have mercy upon us. And finally, O God, teach us all to remember our latter end and the redemption that draweth nigh, and bring us all to that kingdom of rest and glory and joy which is set before us in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rejoicing in the light which he has thrown on the darkness of the grave, we ascribe unto thee, our Father and our God, the praise and the glory for ever. Amen.

VIII.

O THOU who art the supreme Object of our love and adoration and trust, we would offer up at the shrine of thy mercy the humble tribute of our homage and praise. To thee who seest the end from the beginning, and doest whatsoever to thy wisdom

seemeth best,—to thee who hast led us through the years of our infancy and brought us together at this time surrounded by thy guardian care,—we would lift up the voice of thanksgiving, and give glory at the remembrance of thy name. Unknown and untried as are many of the trials to which we are here subject, and beset as we are with dangers and difficulties that we know not of, we look up to thee for strength to help and for mercy to save. Amidst anxious thoughts and depressing fears, under the failure of our schemes and the disappointment of our hopes, may we maintain the tranquillity and the firmness of our minds, knowing that all things are under the direction of thy wisdom and the care of thy goodness. As the Source of all knowledge and the Fountain of all good, we bless and praise thee for the instruction of the wise and the labours and example of the virtuous. We thank thee that the law which from the beginning thou didst write on the hearts of all men, has been exem-

plified in all its beauty and perfection in the life and character of Jesus Christ, and that by the light of reason and scripture thou hast taught us what is thy good and acceptable and perfect will. To that will may we endeavour at all times to submit, and may the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus. May charity and goodwill, mercy and tenderness, joy in the prosperity of others and sympathy in their distresses, dwell within us. May thy blessing rest upon all who are in trouble. Strengthen the weak, provide for the fatherless, and have mercy upon the desolate and oppressed. Ever may we reverence thy holy name, consecrate our powers to thy service, confide in the care of thy gracious providence, walk before thee with willing and obedient minds, and look forward to the night of death with a hope that may tranquillize our spirits, and cheer and comfort our hearts. Hear and accept our prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IX.

O Lord our God, who fillest heaven and earth with thy presence, thou knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising. Thou understandest our thoughts afar off, and thou art acquainted with all our ways. Whether we go forward or backward, to the right hand or to the left, may we remember that we are still in the presence and under the eye of our God. In the care and guardianship of thy paternal wisdom may we humbly and devoutly confide. It is thine to command; it is ours to obey. It is thine to dispose, it is ours to submit. When the rays of thy mercy are for a time withdrawn, and our hearts are ready to sink within us by reason of the troubles and sorrows that have come upon us, may we still repose in perfect reliance on the goodness of thy nature and the declarations of thy word; may we still possess our souls in peace and patience,

and calmly wait the appointed time when the cloud which hung over us shall be dispersed, and we shall again be permitted to rejoice in the light of thy countenance. Lead us, O God, to accept the gracious promises contained in the gospel of thy love, and to conduct ourselves in all circumstances as followers of Christ and expectants of another and a better world. May thy mercies be continued to us as in the days that are past. May we use them without abusing them; and whenever it seemeth good to thee to withdraw them from us, may we submissively resign them to the God from whom they came. While we live, may we walk according to thy holy will; and when we die, may we be admitted to share the happiness and the glory of eternity. This our prayer we present unto thee, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

X.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, confiding in thy paternal wisdom, we present unto thee our supplications for guidance, mercy and help. May the conviction of thy all-surrounding presence go with us everywhere, to guard and protect us, to shield us from the dangers that beset us, and to keep us steadfast in the paths of Christian righteousness. May we acknowledge thee in the bounty that cheers, in the power that sustains, in the wisdom that directs, and in the mercy that saves. On thee our hearts would rest, and from thee our hopes would spring. And as to thy goodness we are indebted for the purest enjoyments of this world and the bright and blessed prospects of another, may we learn to submit our desires to thy will and our actions to thy law. We thank thee, O God, for the unclouded revelation of thyself in the gospel of thy Son. As the disciples of him who came to shew us the

Father, we pray that we may live under a constant sense of the relation which we sustain towards thee. May the thought of thy greatness fill us with reverential awe, and may the remembrance of thy goodness lead us to repentance. As the glory of man passeth away, may we feel the value of the assurance that thy word shall not pass away. May we therefore learn to connect the present with the future, to cherish the Christian's trust and the Christian's hope, and to continue patient in well-doing; so that, being found faithful even unto death, we may receive the crown of life. In the name of him who died for us and rose again, we ascribe unto thee honour and glory for ever. Amen.

XI.

O God, the Father Almighty, whose throne is for ever and ever, all thy works extol and magnify thee, and call upon us

to join in the joy of universal nature, and to bear a part in the hymn of universal praise. When we consider thy loving kindness which is over all, and reflect at the same time on the manifold imperfections of our obedience,—when we compare thy mercies which never fail with our poor returns of thankfulness and praise,—what is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that thou shouldst visit him? Since all flesh is as grass, and the goodliness thereof as the flower of the field, —since the fashion of the world passeth away, and the beauty thereof dieth,—may we direct our thoughts to that which changeth not nor decayeth, but which, like thee, endureth for ever. O may the consciousness of thy powerful presence with us, and of that superintending Providence which never slumbereth nor sleepeth, support us in our moments of trial, strengthen us in our weakness, and comfort us in our sorrows. And grant, O God, that by humble endeavours to imitate

our Saviour in those virtues which are the glory of his life, in piety to thee our God, and in love and charity to man, we may confirm our trust in thy goodness, and secure an interest in thy favour. To thee who knowest what is best for us, though our darkness comprehend it not, we commend ourselves for things temporal as well as for things eternal. If prosperity await us, preserve us from its dangers; or if adversity come upon us, sustain us under its trials. And through all the seasons of our mortal existence, and through all the changes of this changeful world, may we ever lean upon thee, whose goodness never forsakes us and whose mercy endureth for ever. And to thee, our God and Father, be ascribed glory everlasting. Amen.

XII.*

O THOU who art from everlasting to everlasting, the Maker of all things and

* For days of public worship.

the Disposer of all events, upon whom are alike dependent the seraph and the worm, we again come into thy presence to bow before thee in adoration and prayer. We are grateful for the privilege of thus waiting upon thee, of receiving the instructions of heavenly wisdom, and of pouring out in sacred fellowship our praises and thanksgiving. Hear us, O Lord, and regard thou the voice of our supplication. May it not be in vain that we take thy holy name upon our lips, and hold communion with the Father of our spirits. May it not be in vain that we hear the words of truth and soberness, and listen to the voice of that gospel whose commands are purity and peace, and whose promise and reward is life everlasting. May we love thy holy law, and may thy truth be our delighted meditation. And from the services of this day of rest, this sabbath of our spirits, may we gain that acquaintance with thee, our God, and that trust in thy pardoning mercy through Jesus Christ,

which will give peace and rest to our souls. And having paid our vows to thee the Most High, may we return to the engagements of life, better disposed to fulfil its duties, and better enabled to support its trials. As children of the same heavenly Parent, and travellers towards a better, even an everlasting country, may we be mutually assisting and assisted. And beyond the services of this house, and beyond the duties of this day, O raise our views, our hopes, our desires, to that glorious temple above, where we shall raise to thy glory a nobler altar, and offer up to thy acceptance a nobler sacrifice. Hear us in this our prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XIII.

Holy Lord our God, who hast brought us together at this time in health and strength, we would bow before thee with

thankfulness for thy unnumbered mercies, with the spirit of acquiescence in thine appointments, and with ready submission to thy authority. From thee all blessings descend, and every day we experience thy goodness in the supply of our wants, in our social enjoyments, and in the means of improvement and happiness. From thee cometh all our hope. It is by thy grace that we are what we are, and we possess nothing but what we have received from thee. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name, be all the praise. In wisdom and in mercy thou hast directed us, thy children, to be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make known our requests unto thee, our God. May the whole of our conduct be governed and regulated by the spirit of Christ; and while we pursue the various duties of our calling, may we have a single eye to thy approbation, and may we undertake no employment on which we

cannot hope for thy blessing. But when we contemplate our temptations both from within and from without,—when we look back to the past instances of our weakness, and forward to the untried scenes through which we may have to pass,—we would lift up our prayer to thee for grace to preserve us in the paths of righteousness, and to guide our feet into the ways of peace. May we yield to thy benevolent commands the obedience of our hearts, and receive with filial reverence all thy fatherly dispensations concerning us; and grant, O God, that when we are made to feel the wants and weaknesses of our nature, we may look to thy power for our protection, and to thy blessing for our comfort and strength. We ask all for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XIV.

ALMIGHTY and Eternal God, we look up with sentiments of the deepest reverence to thy throne, which is established for ever. We feel how entirely dependent upon thee we are for every blessing which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us. Suffer us not to live and act as if we were unmindful of thy goodness. May we devote to thy service the lives thou hast given us; and may the frequent instances of mortality that come before us remind us of the nearness of death, and teach us all so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Yet conscious how often we have been wanting to thee and to ourselves, we pray, O God, for thy pardoning mercy in Christ Jesus. Grant that the unfeigned penitence of our hearts may find acceptance in thy sight, and render us worthy of thy approbation and blessing. We adore thee for the assurance of that eternal life which thou

hast given us in the gospel of thy Son. To that gospel may we flee for refuge and comfort in every time of trouble and affliction. May we drink more largely of its spirit, and bind more closely to our hearts its promises of pardon and mercy and peace. And for him who died and rose again, that all might live to God and righteousness, may grateful praises ascend to thee, our Father in heaven. O grant to each of us a faith that shall never fail, and a hope that may cheer us in the hour of darkness and of death. Hear us in this our prayer; accept our thanksgiving; and grant that we may experience in the practice of virtue and piety here, the foretaste of that happiness which awaits us hereafter. And thine be the praise and the glory for ever. Amen.

XV.

O THOU who art the Father of all the families of the earth, and the ever-present

Help of them that put their trust in thee, we are now met together to thank thee for all the mercies bestowed upon us, and to acknowledge that it is by thy providence that we are preserved and provided for from day to day. Thy hand has led us safely through the dangers that surround us. Thy power has fed the fountain of life within us. Thy bounty has spread a table for us, filling our hearts with food and gladness. For these things, O God, we would adore and praise thee, and especially for our spiritual and immortal nature. May every blessing that we receive at thy hands tend to the increase of our faith, and to the growth of our spirits in righteousness and true holiness. As we call ourselves the disciples of Christ, may the light of his doctrine and life shine into our souls, dispel the darkness of ignorance, comfort us in our sorrows, and direct our steps into the way of peace and safety. Give us, we pray thee, thoughtful and sober minds, that we may seek to know and

to do thy will. Take from us all selfish desires, all unhallowed thoughts; and make us pure and holy, full of gentleness and mercy, meekness and humility. In all the difficulties and trials of life, may our hearts be fixed on thee, and may our daily actions be done in thy service and to thy glory. Thou knowest, O Father, how feeble our best endeavours are without thy Spirit to help and guide us. Pardon, we beseech thee, our past offences, and do for us what we are not able to do for ourselves. May all holy affections be established within us and manifested in our lives; and so, while we live, may we enjoy the hope of thy favour here, and after death enter into the blessedness of thy heavenly kingdom, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

XVI.

O Lord our God, whose kingdom endureth for ever, we bow before thee in

adoration and prayer, and invoke thy Spirit, the spirit of life and love, to descend and sanctify our hearts and our lips. Amidst the wants and weaknesses of our nature, may we look up to thee for wisdom to guide, and strength to uphold, and mercy to save. May thy providence, which ministers to our necessities and continually supplies us with the means of comfort and happiness, ever find in our breasts a meet return of thankfulness and love. At all times may we walk according to thy will, and be guided into the ways of holiness and virtue. Impart to us the wisdom of pure, well-ordered and benevolent affections. Inspire us with energy in every duty, and with serenity in every suffering; and grant that when our minds are too much engrossed with the perishable interests of this world, they may be awakened, by the prospect of the life to come, to a sense of their true dignity, and of those higher relations which connect them with thee and eternity. In dark and trying

moments of duty, in anxiety, in bereavement, in the wasting of nature and in the hour of death, may we rise above our doubts, our fears, our misgivings, and take refuge in the thought of that land of rest and recompence which has been revealed to us in the gospel of thy Son. Hear us, O God, in this our prayer, pardon our sins, and bestow upon each of us the grace and mercy which we need, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

XVII.

Almighty and eternal God, who dwellest in the light to which no mortal can approach, we bow before thee in the assurance that, among the multitude who unite to celebrate thy perfections and to implore thy mercy, not one sincere and humble worshiper is overlooked or forgotten by thee, whose eye is over all, and whose ear is open to their prayer. Sur-

rounded us we are by thy goodness, may we commit all our interests unto thee as to a faithful and merciful Creator. Dismissing from our minds all distressing thoughts, all disquieting fears, may we rest in the belief that thou art ever ready to hear and answer the prayers of thy children who call upon thee. We thank thee for the gospel of Jesus Christ, for the pure and heavenly light which it throws around our path, for the promise of pardon and peace which it tenders to the truly penitent, and for the glorious and immortal hopes with which it gladdens our hearts. In piety to thee our God, in charity to man, in purity, patience and contentment, and in all the habits and graces of the Christian spirit, may we endeavour to pass the time of our short and uncertain abode in this world of corruption and of death. In thy presence we would make confession of our sins, our omissions of duty, our forgetfulness of thee, and our eternal interests. Have mercy upon us;

blot out all our transgressions; fill our hearts with that charity which suffereth long and is kind; and inspire us with the wisdom which cometh from above, which is pure and peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and of good fruits. And grant, O God, that when the present scene shall close, our minds may be attempered to the society of heaven, and that we may be received into those regions of purity, peace and joy, where, in the presence of Christ our Saviour and the spirits of the just made perfect, we may join together in celebrating everlastingly the honours of thy name. And to thee be given the praise and glory for ever. Amen.

XVIII.

O God, who livest and reignest for ever, we desire to approach thee with reverence and humility, and with a lively conscious-

ness of our dependence upon thy goodness. May we never forget that our hearts are not where they ought to be, if we take no pleasure in communing with thee, our God, and unless the constant sense of thy presence be our strength and support. Whatever may be our fears and doubts and anxieties in the multitude of our thoughts within us, may thy comforts delight our souls. In all our difficulties and dangers, may we come to thee, knowing that thou art ever with us to help and defend us. Whether we are in prosperity or adversity, whether we sorrow or rejoice, may we all live unto thee, for in thee our life is hid. Thy works, O God, everywhere praise thee. Though they have no speech nor language, yet their voice is heard, their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words to the end of the world. May we also lift up our voices in thy praise, and give unto the Lord our God the glory due to his holy name. We praise and bless thee for the gospel of Christ,

for the excellence of his doctrine and the purity of his character, for the glory of his resurrection and the triumph of his ascension. Thou keepest our souls in life, and thou preservest them in the hour of death. O may we earnestly endeavour to discharge the duties incumbent upon us. May we be honest in our dealings, truthful in our words, and faithful to our engagements. May we delight in doing good, be ready to relieve the poor, and to shew compassion to all who are in distress. May our hearts be purified from all selfish and corrupt affections, and may our souls be filled with those imperishable consolations which result from a firm and undoubting faith in the wisdom of thy providence and the mercifulness of thy dispensations. Hear us, heavenly Father, in these our supplications, which we offer up through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XIX.

O God, our Father in heaven, in the spirit of love to thee and to our fellow-men, with filial confidence in thy wisdom and goodness, and with profound submission to the arrangements of thy providence, we again come into thy sacred presence. Grant that wherever we go and however we may be engaged, thy voice may be heard in our hearts, and thy peace be felt in our souls. Ignorant as we are of what a day may bring forth, may we set thee the Lord always before us, and endeavour to walk in the light of thy law. Through joy and through sorrow, in health and in sickness, at all seasons of life and in the trying hour of death, may we lay hold of that anchor of the soul which is sure and steadfast, the pledge and promise of everlasting life. May we therefore seek thy presence, not only to acknowledge thy goodness to us, but to commune with thy spirit, and to feed our souls with

those principles of faith and hope and trust which may be gathered from the contemplation of thy works and the revelation of thy will in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We bless thee for those labours of love which distinguished and adorned the life of him who came to seek and to save that which was lost. We thank thee that thou hast provided a refuge for despair in the assurance of thy Son that they who repent and forsake their transgressions shall find mercy to forgive and grace to help them in the time of their need. God of the spirits of all flesh, our light in darkness and our life in death, prepare us for all coming events, for time and for eternity. May all circumstances minister to our spiritual and everlasting good; and while all outward things are for ever shifting and changing, may we bear in mind that thou art unchangeable, and that of thy kingdom there is no end. Aid with thy Spirit all our endeavours to obtain thy favour; and grant that, by fixing our

thoughts on the eternal realities of another world, we may tread in piety and peace the path which thou hast assigned us in this. We ask all in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XX.

THY throne, O God, is in the heavens. Thou rulest over the earth, and thy presence is the light and life of all nature. To thee, therefore, we would come in the spirit of supplication and dependence, beseeching thee to strengthen our weakness, to enlighten our darkness, and to have compassion on our infirmities. May we know the truth, and may the truth make us free, —free from prejudice and superstition, from the fashion of the world that passeth away, and from the bondage of evil habits. May it be our wisdom and our happiness to look unto Jesus as the Author and Finisher of our faith. By his promises of pardon and mercy to the penitent, by the

light which he has thrown on the path of duty, and by the perfection and beauty of his own spotless and holy life, may our minds be elevated, cheered and strengthened. Called to glory and to virtue, may no guile be found in our hearts; may the law of kindness dwell on our lips; may we speak the truth in love, and live in peace and charity with all men. Grant, merciful Father, that under all the dispensations of thy providence, our chief concern may be to approve ourselves in thy sight, to live in humble expectation of thy mercy, gratefully to adore the wisdom of thy appointments, and devoutly to confide in the assurances of thy love. To whom should we go for help and comfort, but to thee, our Father in heaven? Thou alone knowest what is fittest and best for us; and to thee, therefore, may we lift up our souls and say, Not our will, but thine, be done. And to thee be ascribed, through Jesus Christ, blessing and praise for ever. Amen.

XXI.

O Lord our God, thine be the praise and thine the glory of every good and perfect gift which thou hast bestowed upon the children of men. To thy beneficence we ascribe all that brightens and blesses our existence, all that impels us to be useful, and all that enables us to be happy. Teach us to think on our ways, and to turn our feet unto thy testimonies. May we endeavour to acquire a spirit of seriousness and sobriety; and by the practice of Christian virtue and habits of self-examination and holy communion with thee, the Father of our spirits, may we render ourselves approved and accepted in thy sight. May we derive from our acquaintance with the teachings of Jesus Christ those spiritual blessings and consolations of which, as children of suffering and sorrow and death, we all of us stand in need. Knowing that all things are under the

care of thy goodness, may we at all times be able to maintain the purity and the firmness of our minds. May no prospect of advantage or of gain ever prevail with us to violate the dictates of our hearts, or betray us into those sinful compliances by which we should sin against thee our God; but in all our doings may we act under a sense of thy presence and the fear of thy displeasure. May we hold fast our integrity as long as we shall live, walk before thee with willing and obedient minds; and whenever thou shalt see fit to summon us from the present scene, may we die in peace, sleep in Jesus, rise again at the resurrection of the just, and finally be admitted into that glorious temple above, where dwell for ever the spirits of the good. And to thee, our God and Father, be praise and glory for ever. Amen.

XXII.

O THOU who alone art worthy of our profoundest homage and obedience, may we draw nigh to thee with our hearts as well as with our lips, and derive peace and comfort from communing with thy Spirit. Impress upon our minds a deep sense of the blessings which we enjoy through the gospel of Jesus Christ. May we no longer cleave to the delusions of sense or the foolish devices of our own minds, prompting us to seek peace where there is no peace; but may we study to obey the unchanging laws of thy providence, and to render ourselves fit objects of thy pardoning mercy. Help us, amidst the cares and pleasures of this transitory life, to remember that we are designed for a nobler existence than that which passeth away. May we, therefore, learn to be temperate in all things, to use the world without abusing it, to lay up for ourselves

treasures in heaven, and to cherish those dispositions and affections which will fit us for greater perfection and for greater happiness in the world to come. May the hopes and prospects opened to us in the gospel of Christ elevate and purify our minds, and keep us active and faithful in the performance of our duty. May thy providence direct our steps in life and watch over us for good. Forgive our sins of ignorance and infirmity; and grant, O God, that to thee we may look up with constant thankfulness and holy trust; and as we approach the dark valley of the shadow of death, may we remember that it is but the passage to light and life and happiness. And to thee, the Giver of all good, be given blessing and praise for ever. Amen.

XXIII.

O THOU who art present in all worlds and in all hearts, in godly sincerity may we take thy holy name upon our lips, and with reverence and humility bow ourselves before thee. By the voice of that religion in the profession of which we are here met together, we are called to the rich inheritance of thy children. O let not that call be made to us in vain; but may it be our earnest desire to do thy will and to live in constant remembrance of thy goodness. In life and in death we are encompassed with thy presence. May this thought ever dwell within us. May all fears vanish before it. May it be a light to those who are sitting in darkness, and a never-failing spring of hope and consolation to all who are suffering under the afflictive events of thy providence. Strengthen us in every conflict to which virtue may call us, and bring us safely through the trials which we may have to

bear. We devoutly thank thee for the assurance of that eternal life which thou hast given us in the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ. In that gospel may relief be found for all who are in trouble and sorrow. O give us to drink more largely of its spirit, and to bind more closely to our hearts its promises of pardon and mercy and peace. And grant, O God, that in the love and pursuit of the things that are excellent, we may pass the time of our continuance here, so that at whatever hour the Master of the house shall come, he may find us at our posts, with our lamps trimmed and burning, and ready to enter into the joy of our Lord. This, our prayer and supplication, we offer up through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XXIV.

God of our lives and Author of our days, who doest good unto all and suppli-

est all our wants, in our enjoyment of the various blessings of thy providence may we lift up our hearts unto thee, regarding them as tokens of thy love and pledges of a brighter inheritance in the world to come. We rejoice in the thought that after we have been the care of thy wisdom and goodness in one scene of being, we may hope for admission into another and a better. Lead us, therefore, to follow the example of Christ our Saviour, and to cultivate that humility, meekness, purity and love, which will fit us for the communion and happiness of the world to come. May we feel that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesses, and that he who is wanting in knowledge and love and good works is before thee poor and empty. May we therefore labour not only for the bread that perishes, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life. Breathe into us all a spirit of genuine piety. Preserve us from the power of evil principles and evil

passions; and trusting in thy wisdom and relying on thy goodness, may no fear govern us but the fear of thee our God; and though we die, may we never remove our integrity from us. Wherever we are, we know that thou, O Father, art ever with us to aid and bless us. Following the light of a pure conscience and the guidance of thy Holy Spirit, and knowing that, though the grass withereth and the flower fadeth, the word of our God shall stand for ever, may we look not at the fashion of what passeth away, but at that which endureth for ever. So may we retire from this mortal state in resignation and in hope, and finally obtain the reward of our faith and obedience, even the salvation of our souls. We ask all as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

XXV.

Gracious Lord our God, we would draw near to thee with our hearts as well

as with our lips, blessing thee for thy daily mercies, and commending ourselves to thy continued protection and care. All nature proclaims thy being and perfections. We see thee in the brightness of heaven and in the fertility of earth. We recognize thy wisdom and goodness in the powers and affections of the human mind, in its joys and sorrows, in its hopes and fears. May we feel it to be our happiness that, through Jesus Christ, we have been led to the true knowledge of thee our God, and that we live under the constant care of thy merciful providence. In that providence may we place our trust, and may the light of the gospel irradiate our minds, warm and purify our hearts, and lead us into the way of life everlasting. Sustain us in our infirmities, cheer us in our despondencies, and enable us, through all the dark and troubled scenes of life, to hold on our way rejoicing. Save us from coldness and indifference towards our eternal interests, and impress upon

our minds a deeper sense of the blessings which we enjoy through the gospel of Christ. May that gospel bring faith to the doubting, strength to the weak, comfort to the mourner, and rest to the weary and heavy-laden. What we know not, do thou teach us. Wherein we have offended, do thou have mercy and forgive. Deliver us from the bondage of sinful habits and unchristian tempers; and grant that, when the intercourses of this world shall be brought to an end, we may renew our communion in that world which is unfading and eternal. Hear us for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

XXVI.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, to thee we are indebted for the preservation of our lives, the support of our faculties and the continuance of our enjoyments. Give us hearts deeply grateful for the

blessings which we have received from thee, and teach us to repose a firm and unshaken trust in the wisdom and mercifulness of all thy dispensations. May the thought of thy overruling providence be with us at all times. May it direct and purify our desires, elevate and dignify all our pleasures, be the guide and guardian of our moral being, and evermore keep us in the paths of righteousness, which are always the paths of pleasantness and peace. In seasons of perplexity, difficulty and danger, when our souls are cast down and our spirits are disquieted within us, may we look to thee for the strength and the consolation of which we stand in need. May we devote the powers and faculties which thou hast given us to the good of our fellow-creatures and our own moral and spiritual improvement. May we seek and find our happiness in the cultivation of pure and generous affections, in the faithful discharge of our social obligations, and in the habitual practice of piety and

virtue. In simplicity and godly sincerity may we have our conversation in the world. May we walk in the light as thou art in the light; may the words of Christ dwell richly in us; and may we cherish such a spirit of warm and confiding trust in thy goodness, that when our bodies shall lie down in their beds of darkness, our souls may pass into the regions of light, to live with thee for ever and ever. This our prayer we present unto thee as disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XXVII.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, the Lord and Giver of life, for the wisdom that made and preserves us, for the power that sustains and supports us, and for the goodness that supplies our wants and ministers to our infirmities, we adore and magnify thy holy name. May we learn to place our chief confidence in thee, who art without

variableness or the shadow of a turning. May we bear in mind that it is the pure in heart who alone can see God, and that the same holy voice which calls us to the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, calls us to prepare for it by spending our lives in thy service, and by endeavouring to conform our wills to thine. May thy word direct and comfort us. May its promises never forsake us; may its hopes never leave us; but in all situations and under all circumstances, may it be our companion and our guide, our refuge and our support. We thank thee, heavenly Father, for having implanted in us a love and a desire of that which is good. May no events lead us aside from thee, or take us out of the course of thy blessing. And grant, O God, that we may never lose sight of our immortal destination, or forget thee, in whom alone we have to trust; but in the ever-shifting scenes of life, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, may we remember that thine eye is

always upon us; that if we cleave unto thee, thou wilt never leave nor forsake us; and that when all earthly consolations are gone, thy comforts remain to delight our souls; that when heart and flesh shall fail us, thou wilt be the strength of our hearts and our portion for ever. We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

XXVIII.

O THOU who art God over all, we worship and adore thee as the Fountain of life and light and happiness. We rejoice in the thought that we are the creatures of thy hand and the subjects of thy government. We thank thee for the light of nature, and for the wisdom that descended from above to guide us in thy pure and perfect way, and to lead us to happiness and glory everlasting. Fill our hearts, we beseech thee, with the spirit of earnest-

ness and faith. Regenerate and purify our affections. Give us strength to cast away the works of darkness, and to put on the armour of light. Purify our lips with the living flame of heavenly wisdom, that we may seek truth and goodness above every temporal blessing. And as to thee all hearts are open, may we study in all things to obey thy will. In every condition of life, may we speak and act under the habitual conviction that thine eye is ever upon us, and that thou wilt give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As disciples of Jesus Christ, may we be mindful of the blessed prospects which he has opened to our view. Travellers on earth, may we feel that we are indeed citizens of heaven; and though dwelling for a while in this land of mortality, we belong to another region, and are destined for another and a nobler community. May it therefore be the great object of our being to live as seeing thee who art in-

visible, and to cherish with confidence and hope the expectation of that better world, the promised inheritance of the wise and good. Grant, O God, that by the help of thy grace, we may raise ourselves from the slavish cares of earth to the cheerful service of thee, our heavenly Father, and to such a wise and faithful improvement of the means and opportunities placed in our hands, as may qualify us for the blissful communion of the heavenly kingdom. Hear and accept this our prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IN TIMES OF AFFLICTION.

O God, our Almighty and Merciful Father, the Source and Fountain of all good, in approaching at this time the throne of thy grace, we humbly implore of thee the support and the comfort which it is thine alone to give. To thee our inmost souls lie open. Thou knowest the desires of our hearts, and thou hearest the prayers which they cannot utter. May thy blessing now rest upon us. Shed abroad and within us the peace of meek and humble submission to thy holy will. Pardon our sins, and enable us to rise above the darkness and the clouds of this mortal state. We are all in thy keeping and care. May our confidence in thee stand every trial. May every fear be still and every murmur hushed. We thank thee, O God, for the love manifested towards us by thy Son Jesus Christ, and for the light of his gospel in guiding our steps in the way to

heaven. May the affliction with which thou hast been pleased to visit us bind us more closely to thee and to each other; and grant that, when we are summoned hence, we may enter into thy presence, and live with thee and the spirits of the just made perfect in heaven. Hear us in this our prayer and supplication, which we present unto thee in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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variableness or the shadow of a turning. May we bear in mind that it is the pure in heart who alone can see God, and that the same holy voice which calls us to the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, calls us to prepare for it by spending our lives in thy service, and by endeavouring to conform our wills to thine. May thy word direct and comfort us. May its promises never forsake us; may its hopes never leave us; but in all situations and under all circumstances, may it be our companion and our guide, our refuge and our support. We thank thee, heavenly Father, for having implanted in us a love and a desire of that which is good. May no events lead us aside from thee, or take us out of the course of thy blessing. And grant, O God, that we may never lose sight of our immortal destination, or forget thee, in whom alone we have to trust; but in the ever-shifting scenes of life, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, may we remember that thine eye is

always upon us; that if we cleave unto thee, thou wilt never leave nor forsake us; and that when all earthly consolations are gone, thy comforts remain to delight our souls; that when heart and flesh shall fail us, thou wilt be the strength of our hearts and our portion for ever. We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

XXVIII.

O THOU who art God over all, we worship and adore thee as the Fountain of life and light and happiness. We rejoice in the thought that we are the creatures of thy hand and the subjects of thy government. We thank thee for the light of nature, and for the wisdom that descended from above to guide us in thy pure and perfect way, and to lead us to happiness and glory everlasting. Fill our hearts, we beseech thee, with the spirit of earnest-

ness and faith. Regenerate and purify our affections. Give us strength to cast away the works of darkness, and to put on the armour of light. Purify our lips with the living flame of heavenly wisdom, that we may seek truth and goodness above every temporal blessing. And as to thee all hearts are open, may we study in all things to obey thy will. In every condition of life, may we speak and act under the habitual conviction that thine eye is ever upon us, and that thou wilt give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As disciples of Jesus Christ, may we be mindful of the blessed prospects which he has opened to our view. Travellers on earth, may we feel that we are indeed citizens of heaven; and though dwelling for a while in this land of mortality, we belong to another region, and are destined for another and a nobler community. May it therefore be the great object of our being to live as seeing thee who art in-

visible, and to cherish with confidence and hope the expectation of that better world, the promised inheritance of the wise and good. Grant, O God, that by the help of thy grace, we may raise ourselves from the slavish cares of earth to the cheerful service of thee, our heavenly Father, and to such a wise and faithful improvement of the means and opportunities placed in our hands, as may qualify us for the blissful communion of the heavenly kingdom. Hear and accept this our prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IN TIMES OF AFFLICTION.

O God, our Almighty and Merciful Father, the Source and Fountain of all good, in approaching at this time the throne of thy grace, we humbly implore of thee the support and the comfort which it is thine alone to give. To thee our inmost souls lie open. Thou knowest the desires of our hearts, and thou hearest the prayers which they cannot utter. May thy blessing now rest upon us. Shed abroad and within us the peace of meek and humble submission to thy holy will. Pardon our sins, and enable us to rise above the darkness and the clouds of this mortal state. We are all in thy keeping and care. May our confidence in thee stand every trial. May every fear be still and every murmur hushed. We thank thee, O God, for the love manifested towards us by thy Son Jesus Christ, and for the light of his gospel in guiding our steps in the way to

heaven. May the affliction with which thou hast been pleased to visit us bind us more closely to thee and to each other; and grant that, when we are summoned hence, we may enter into thy presence, and live with thee and the spirits of the just made perfect in heaven. Hear us in this our prayer and supplication, which we present unto thee in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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as with our lips, blessing thee for thy daily mercies, and commending ourselves to thy continued protection and care. All nature proclaims thy being and perfections. We see thee in the brightness of heaven and in the fertility of earth. We recognize thy wisdom and goodness in the powers and affections of the human mind, in its joys and sorrows, in its hopes and fears. May we feel it to be our happiness that, through Jesus Christ, we have been led to the true knowledge of thee our God, and that we live under the constant care of thy merciful providence. In that providence may we place our trust, and may the light of the gospel irradiate our minds, warm and purify our hearts, and lead us into the way of life everlasting. Sustain us in our infirmities, cheer us in our despondencies, and enable us, through all the dark and troubled scenes of life, to hold on our way rejoicing. Save us from coldness and indifference towards our eternal interests, and impress upon

our minds a deeper sense of the blessings which we enjoy through the gospel of Christ. May that gospel bring faith to the doubting, strength to the weak, comfort to the mourner, and rest to the weary and heavy-laden. What we know not, do thou teach us. Wherein we have offended, do thou have mercy and forgive. Deliver us from the bondage of sinful habits and unchristian tempers; and grant that, when the intercourses of this world shall be brought to an end, we may renew our communion in that world which is unfading and eternal. Hear us for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

XXVI.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, to thee we are indebted for the preservation of our lives, the support of our faculties and the continuance of our enjoyments. Give us hearts deeply grateful for the

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